

government officials in the process of registration.

In closing, I hope both the Kazakh and Kyrgyz Governments will be mindful of 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, (para 16.3), which states that governments are obligated to "grant upon their request to communities of believers, practicing or prepared to practice their faith within the constitutional framework of their states, recognition of the status provided for them in their respective countries."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, this last Wednesday, on rollcall vote No. 375, I want it to be in the RECORD that I was present on the House floor, and I did vote in favor of that bill. Unfortunately, there was a malfunction with the House voting machine, and it did not record my vote.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERIC BENNETT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences and sympathies to the family of Eric Bennett. On September 11, Eric Bennett was in a business conference on the 102nd floor of tower one in the World Trade Center when American Airlines flight 11 crashed into the 89th floor.

Eric Bennett, 29 years old, grew up in Genesee Township and moved to New York City after college to pursue a successful career in computer programming. According to his parents and those fortunate enough to know him, Eric possessed a determination to succeed and a passion for life.

Shortly after learning that Eric was missing, Elizabeth and Terry Bennett traveled to New York City to search the hospitals for their son. Unfortunately, Eric's parents were unable to find him and they have now accepted the fact that he did not survive the attack.

On behalf of the people in the Ninth District of Michigan, I would like to extend my thoughts and prayers to Eric's family and friends. A memorial service celebrating Eric Bennett's life will be held at the Elks Club in Grand Blanc Township on October 14 from 2–5 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CNMI NATIONAL GUARD ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation authorizing the establishment of a National Guard unit for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). As my colleagues may know,

Guam shares geographic proximity and ancestral ties with the Northern Marianas. Therefore, it is only proper that this bill is introduced for our Pacific neighbors. I have other legislation pending that would afford the CNMI a Delegate to this House, but until such a proposal becomes a reality I believe it is my obligation to help their cause in Washington, DC.

This legislation is timely and needed. In the weeks following the tragic events and terrorist attacks of September 11, our Nation has been focused on strengthening our homeland security. As we continue to reevaluate and reassess our preparedness capability, I hope that we take the opportunity to pass this legislation for the benefit of our national security and for equal protection for all jurisdictions under the U.S. flag. The events of the past month have illustrated the detriments to communities without National Guard units. While the Federal Aviation Administration has established new and more stringent aviation security requirements, the task of providing security for the CNMI's three principal airports has been borne solely by civilians from the Northern Marianas. While other governors across the nation were able to activate their guard units, the CNMI was not afforded this option. This legislation would correct this oversight and extend to the CNMI the centuries old American tradition of having its citizenry contribute towards the defense and security of their homeland.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Resident Representative of the CNMI, Juan Babauta, for bringing this issue to my attention and for his diligence in working on behalf of his people. He had the foresight to raise this issue with the National Guard Bureau long before recent events. He has long maintained an interest in establishing a National Guard unit trained and equipped to protect the life and property of CNMI citizens, while providing to the Nation a force ready to defend the United States and its interests.

IN HONOR OF THE HIGH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the staff of the High School of Economics and Finance for their outstanding response to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Situated just one block south of the World Trade Center, the High School of Economics and Finance was the closest school to the epicenter of the horrifying disaster of September 11th. The administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, school safety and support staff of the school took immediate, efficient, and lifesaving action to protect all 750 students in their care.

Their praiseworthy efficiency in evacuating all 750 students from their building deserves an enormous debt of gratitude from our community. The staff members mobilized immediately to protect the safety, welfare and well-being of all students in the most professional fashion possible. So closely situated near "ground zero," there is no question that the staff's organized evacuation saved countless lives.

The building housing the High School of Economics and Finance was heavily damaged

by the disastrous acts of September 11, 2001. On September 20, 2001, the staff and students relocated to Norman Thomas High School, on 33rd Street in midtown Manhattan. It is a demonstration of the high level of professionalism of all staff members that students have returned to school and are currently progressing with their studies while receiving counseling and care from their dedicated teachers and staff members.

The courage, vigilance, valor, and bravery shown by the staff of the High School of Economics and Finance in their attentive supervision of the students are admirable. Similarly, the swift return to school and the teaching, mentoring and guiding of the students through this terrible time is deeply commendable.

I heartily commemorate and congratulate the staff of the High School of Economics and Finance for all that they have done on behalf of their students, city and country. I thank them all for their truly courageous leadership.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD F. SPRINGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Leonard F. Springs II, a native of South Carolina who will be honored this evening during the annual meeting of the South Carolina State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Tonight's Leadership Tribute is a component of the 2001 Civil Rights Conference, which commemorates the 60th annual Convention of the South Carolina State NAACP. I am pleased to join the South Carolina State NAACP in honoring my good friend and "soulmate", "Lenny" Springs.

Leonard Springs, II—Senior Vice-President of Corporate Relations at First Union Corporation—is a graduate of Voorhees College, Denmark, South Carolina and the University of South Carolina. He has dedicated more than 25 years of his life to developing and managing community reinvestment programs in the banking industry and non-profits sector. Dollars and Sense Magazine affirms that he is "one of America's top corporate officers." In 1988, Mr. Springs became Vice President, Corporate Affairs Relations at First Union National Bank of Georgia and held that position until 1990. During his service in Atlanta and with his energetic leadership, Mr. Springs made a truly significant impact throughout the minority business community. As a board member of the Atlanta Mortgage Consortium, he initiated efforts to make affordable housing accessible to low-income citizens. He also served as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the city of Atlanta Main Street-Auburn Avenue Project.

Included among his many achievements, are designing and implementing programs, procedures and practices to ensure compliance with regulations of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA); creating a CRA training module in conjunction with the American Banking Association; developing a number of commercial lending programs for small businesses; developing a CRA procedure manual; and authoring a column for "Money Matters" magazine. Mr. Springs is recognized as a

leading authority on banking information throughout the Carolinas.

Mr. Springs embarked upon his professional career in 1974 as a Field Representative of the Labor Education Advancement Program of the Columbia Urban League in South Carolina. Two years later he became Executive Director of the Greenville Urban League where he remained with the Greenville Urban League for seven years. He later became Assistant Vice President of Community Relations for Southern Bank & Trust in Greenville. Mr. Springs would further advance his career by accepting a similar position with First Union National Bank of South Carolina in 1985.

Serving as a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, he lead the search to obtain the association's current national president, Kwisei Mfume. Mr. Springs professional affiliations and board appointments, past and present, are reflective of his outstanding service to various communities and include: Channel WTVI Board of Directors which oversees the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority; Charlotte Auditorium-Coliseum Convention Authority Board of Directors; Presidential Administrative Appointee to the US Department of the Treasury Bank Secrecy Advisory Group; Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission during my tenure as Commissioner; Chairman, NAACP Special Contribution Fund Board of Trustees, Past President, Founder and Board Member of the Charlotte Chapter of 100 Black Men, Inc.; Board Member of Central Carolina Urban League; National Alliance of Business Southeast Regional Board; Business Policy Review Council; Board of Directors, Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council Inc.; Past President, Voorhees College National Alumni Association; member, National Urban Bankers Association; Southern Region Board of Directors, Boy Scouts of America; Barber-Scotia College Board of Visitors; Johnson C. Smith University Board of Trustees; Florida Memorial College Board of Directors; South Carolina State University Foundations Board of Directors; and Spirit Square, Charlotte, NC, Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Leonard F. Springs II, a personal friend and former employer, for his contributions to the business community, involvements in community revitalization, and overall public service. I sincerely thank Mr. Springs for the dedicated service he has provided to the citizens of South Carolina and the noteworthy contributions he has made to minority business development throughout the nation. I congratulate him on his recognition by the South Carolina Conference of Branches of the NAACP and wish him good luck and God-speed in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE TONY MARTINEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I rise to honor Tony Martinez, former constituent from Colton, California who passed away on October 4, 2001.

I cannot begin to express how saddened I am by the passing of my friend Tony Martinez. All men die, but not all men really live; we can honestly say that Tony lived. He was a model citizen, community leader, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and an extraordinary man.

Tony Martinez was born in Colton but lived in Redlands for most of his life. Tony was a remarkable example of humanity. He left high school at sixteen to start his own trucking company, and until the day he was drafted to fight in World War II, he hauled fertilizer, fruits, and vegetables from Mexicali to Los Angeles. When Tony returned from the war he moved to East Los Angeles, where he had his first taste of politics.

The California Community Service Organization was in its infancy and Ed Roybal, later to become Congressman and the father of Californian Latino politics, needed good men and women to help fight for Latino civil rights. Tony Martinez jumped headfirst and worked alongside the likes of Ed Roybal and Cesar Chavez to improve the lot in life of the average Latino. In the words of Congressman Ed Roybal, "Tony is a man of great integrity . . . active in community affairs." Tony and Ed knew each other for over forty years and held each other in the highest esteem.

Tony Martinez moved to Redlands in 1952 and since then became a fixture of the community. He worked hard every day to provide to his family and to improve his community. In 1973 he helped save the local Head Start program and soon after dedicated himself to the building of a community senior center. Tony was unyielding and unwavering in his dedication to this dream and his community. Tomorrow, the Redlands Community Center/Senior Nutrition Center will celebrate Tony's life to thank him for his selfless dedication. Although he was defeated three times for Redlands City Council, he never lost his faith in the community or the democratic process. In fact, he was one of the leading voices in a successful ballot measure to create city council wards, after the city council voted to eliminate them.

Thanksgiving is a time of the year for family unity and to thank the blessings God has given us. Predictably, Tony had his own way to thank God for all his blessings; his daughter Anita remembers, "I was seven years old and saw my dad dressed as Santa Claus taking pictures with the local kids and then he would make us all race over to the community center to hand out turkeys to poor families." If Tony was not busy showing the kids at the Boys and Girls Club to box, he was busy with his home-operated charity to fight poverty and hunger—Su Casa de Amistad. Not a single day was ever wasted. Tony used to say, "anyone staying in front of the TV drinking beer is not going to last on this world." Tony Martinez is proof that we can live life to the fullest until our last day. At the age of 82, until the day he died, he worked tirelessly for his community. We will all miss you.

Tony Martinez is survived by his wife Rosa Martinez, five children (Tony, Michael, Rebecca, Maria, and Anita), eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Tony is irreplaceable and we will not live one day without remembering this kind and gentle man.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNTY OF OCONTO

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honor Wisconsin's Oconto county one of the most naturally beautiful areas of our country. On November 4, the county will celebrate its 150th anniversary.

Oconto has a rich history of Menominee Indian, French and English settlers. The industry of Oconto through its early history changed from fur trading to lumber. In 1848, Wisconsin gained statehood, putting Oconto one step closer to formation. In 1850, census data showed that the region of Oconto held 415 residents. On November 4, 1851 the first election was held to found Oconto County, establishing the county seat in the small mill settlement of Oconto.

In the twentieth century, lumber companies were the largest businesses in the region producing more than 60 million board feet of lumber per year. This lumbering tradition exemplifies the hard working drive and dedication of the people of Oconto.

Through the years Oconto's business and commerce has increased due to the ingenuity and productivity of its citizens. From Oconto to Townsend, Lena to Lakewood, Gillett to Mountain and everywhere in between, we see those characteristics manifesting themselves in the people and progress in Oconto County. Today, educators, doctors, business owners, loggers, and state employees all make up a strong and vibrant Wisconsin community called Oconto.

On this sesquicentennial of the inception of Oconto County, I offer my congratulations to the county and its residents. Oconto is a true representation of our Wisconsin spirit and values in industry, business, and its people.

TRIBUTE TO ANNA MARIA ARIAS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of an exceptional woman, Anna Maria Arias. On Monday, October 1, 2001, Anna Maria lost a seven-year battle against aplastic anemia and passed away from complications related to a bone marrow transplant procedure at MD Anderson Medical Center in Houston, TX.

Anna Maria Arias was born on July 12, 1960 in San Bernardino, California. She attended San Diego State University but her passion for media and journalism eventually led her to Hawaii Pacific University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications. When she was offered a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellowship to Washington, D.C. Anna Maria saw her opportunity. She accepted the CHCI fellowship and was assigned to the Washington, D.C. bureau of CNN where she became part of the production team at CNN's Crossfire program.

As the founder and president of Arias Communications, Anna Maria enjoyed a varied and